CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A printer, comprising:

at least one card slot receiving a data card having an image data and/or a specific execution file stored therein and an interface card for data communication with an external apparatus;

a detection unit detecting whether a memory card installed in the card slot is the data card or the interface card; and

a control unit determining whether to execute the interface card, if the interface card is installed in the card slot according to the detection unit, and communicating with the external apparatus according to the executing interface card.

2.   The printer of claim 1, further comprising:

a storage unit storing more than one device driver corresponding to an installed interface card,

wherein if the interface card is installed in the card slot according to the detecting unit, the control unit determines whether a device driver corresponding to the installed interface card is stored in the storage unit to execute the interface card, and if the control unit determines that a device driver corresponding to the installed interface card is not stored in the storage unit, the control unit outputs a message that the interface card cannot be executed.

3.   The printer of claim 2, further comprising:

another card slot receiving the data card storing the device driver corresponding to the installed interface card, if the device driver corresponding to the installed interface card is not stored in the storage unit.

4.   The printer of claim 2, wherein if the control unit determines that the device driver corresponding to the installed interface card is not stored in the storage unit, the control unit generates a message requesting installation in the card slot of the data card storing the device driver corresponding to the installed interface card.

5.   The printer of claim 1, wherein if the data card is installed in the card slot according to the detection unit, the control unit determines whether a specific execution file exists from among files stored in the data card, and executes a specific function by executing the specific execution file, if the specific execution file is stored in the memory card.

6.   A method of controlling a printer having at least one card slot receiving a data card and an interface card for data communication with an external apparatus, a storage unit storing at least one device driver corresponding to the interface card, a detection unit detecting a memory card type installed in the card slot, and a control unit, the control method comprising:

detecting whether a memory card installed in the card slot is the data card or the interface card; and

upon determining that the interface card is installed in the card slot, executing the interface card and controlling data communication with the external apparatus according to the executing interface card.

7.   The method of claim 6, wherein the interface card executing comprises determining whether the installed interface card is executable by determining whether there is a device driver corresponding to the interface card stored in the storage unit.

8.   The method of claim 7, wherein the determining whether the device driver corresponding to the installed interface card is stored in the storage unit comprises generating a message requesting installation of the data card storing the device driver corresponding to the installed interface card, if the devise driver is not stored in the storage unit.

9.   The method of claim 8, wherein the interface card executing comprises executing the device driver stored in the requested installed data card to execute the interface card.

10.   The method of claim 7, wherein the determining whether the device driver corresponding to the installed interface card is stored in the storage unit further comprises determining whether a specific execution file exists from among files stored in the data card, and if determined that the specific execution file exists in the data card, executing the specific execution file to execute the interface card.

11.   A printer, comprising:

a card slot receiving a memory card; and

a programmed computer processor detecting whether the received memory card is a function extension type card, and executing the function extension type card to communicate with an external apparatus having a compatible communication interface with a communication interface stored in the extension type card.

12.   The printer of claim 11, wherein the programmed computer processor further executes the function extension type card to execute new printer functions.

13.   The printer of claim 11, wherein the received function extension type card stores a plug-in program as a device driver; and

the programmed computer processor executes the plug-in program to execute the function extension type card.